



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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Belgium-Luxembourg

Livestock and Products

BSE Monitoring System Results for 2002

2003

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Report Highlights:

BSE monitoring system results for 2002.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1], BE

In 2002, Belgian authorities tested more than 450,000 animals and 38 cases of BSE were confirmed, compared to 46 cases discovered by 378,000 tests in 2001. The rate of cattle found positive was 1 per 11,842, compared to 1 per 7,295 in 2001. The aggregate 2001 rate for the EU equaled 1 per 8,464.

Since the BSE testing systems differ between EU member states, the percentage of positive tested animals is influenced by testing methodology. Unlike other EU countries, Belgium considers all animals which are not properly identified as BSE-suspect. Also, since July 2001, all carcasses of cattle older than 24 months which are destined for rendering or which have died on-farm are tested for BSE.

In its March 2003 newsletter, the Belgian Federal Food Safety Agency published the results of the BSE monitoring system in 2002. Although the monitoring system is considered to be highly accurate, the Federal Food Safety Agency is cautious and does not want to draw conclusions or draw attention to positive trends as of yet.

Table: Belgian Results of BSE Tracing System on Cattle in 2002

Clinical Surveillance (Passive Monitoring)			Active Monitoring			
		Total	Slaughter for consumption	Neurological Disorder	Carcasses	Total
Tested or Suspected Cattle		377	410,379	3,277	36,386	450,419
Negative	Number	372	410,353	3,277	36,313	450,315
	%	98.6737	99.9937	100.000	99.7994	99.9769
False Positive (1)	Number	0	3	0	0	3
	%	0.0000	0.0007	0.0000	0.0000	0.0007
Not to Analyze	Number	0	6	0	57	63
	%	0	0.0015	0.0000	0.1567	0.0140
Positive (2)	Number	5	17	0	16	38
	%	1.3263	0.0041	0.0000	0.0440	0.0084
Positive per 100.000 tests		1,326.26	4.14	0.00	43.97	8.44
Positive per million cattle		1.64	5.59	0.00	5.26	12.49

(1) Tests proved positive in the active monitoring system but were not confirmed by clinical testing.

(2) Tests proved positive in both active monitoring system and clinical testing.